



# Understanding Allegory

ENG 2 - SANDERS



# *The Tortoise and the Hare*

Answer the following questions while I read the fable out loud to you:

1. Who/What does the hare represent? And the tortoise?
2. Is this just a story for children?
3. What is the “moral” of the story?
4. Why tell a story like this? Why not just explain the “moral” to people?
5. Why use animals?

# Allegory

(noun) (pl. allegories)

- Allegory is a form of extended metaphor, in which objects, persons, and actions in a narrative, are equated with the meanings that lie outside the narrative itself. The underlying meaning has moral, social, religious, or political significance, and characters are often personifications of abstract ideas, such as charity, greed, or envy. Thus an allegory is a story with two meanings; a literal meaning and a symbolic meaning.

## Why Use Animals In Allegory?

Many allegories use animals to represent human characters, vices, types of people or qualities of human nature.

# The Allegorical Meaning of Animals

Work in pairs

## The Fox and the Crow

As you listen to the fable, think about what you think the final piece of advice will be.

IF this is an allegory, what is the literal meaning, and what is the symbolic meaning?

HW:

1. IR
2. Unpacking Fables handout. Work on this individually. This should help your understanding of double meanings in allegorical stories.